Mother Williams

Altheimer Memorial Church of God in Christ
1121 South Altheimer Street
Tacoma, WA 98405
(Home Church and Co-Founder - April 1945)

Services Held at
Washington State Headquarters
9201 Pacific Ave
Tacoma, WA
Wednesday - January 2, 2002
11:00 A.M.

Mother Bernice Altheimer
"NANA"

The Home Going of
Mother Bernice Altheimer

"We thank our God upon every remembrance of you."
Philippians 1:3

Bishop T. L. Westbrook
Jurisdictional Prelate

Supt. Sherman Davis
Pastor

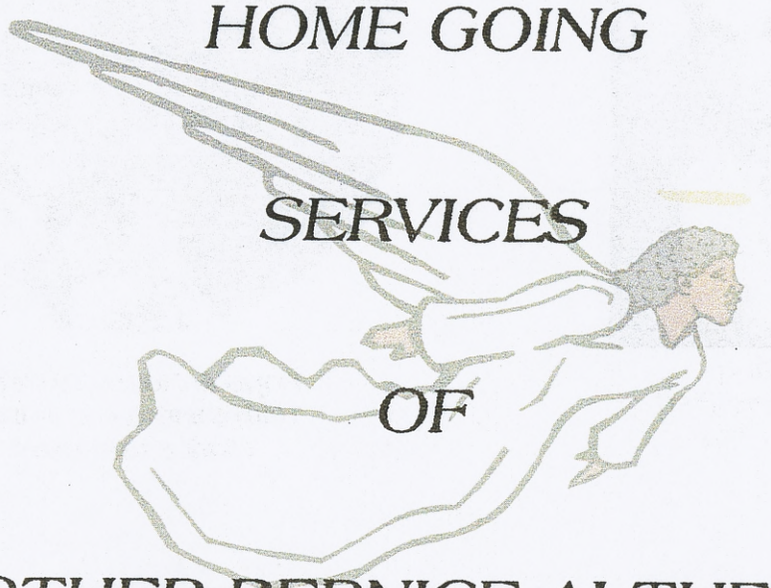
Mother Gertrude Young
Jurisdictional Supervisor

THE

HOME GOING

SERVICES

OF



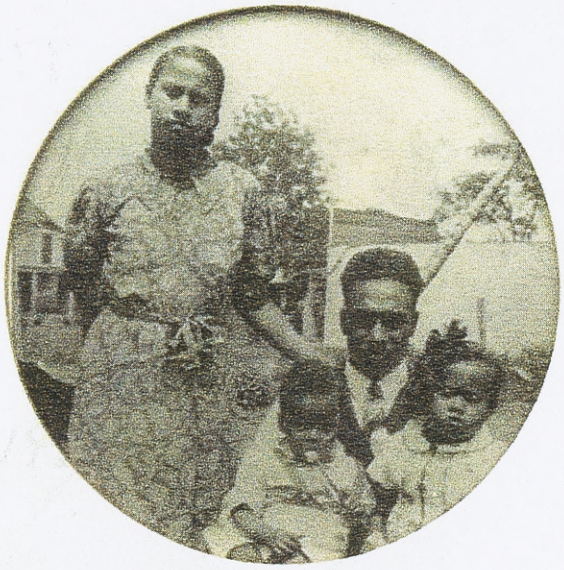
MOTHER BERNICE ALTHEIMER
"NANA"

Wednesday, January 2, 2002
11:00 a.m.

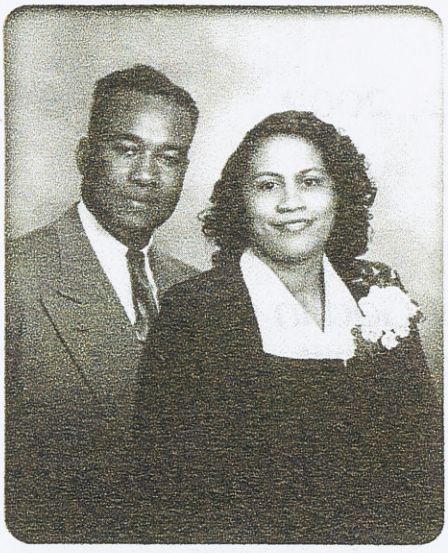
Home Church
Altheimer Memorial Church of God in Christ
1121 South Altheimer Street
Tacoma, WA

Services Held
Washington State COGIC Headquarters
9201 Pacific Avenue
Tacoma, WA

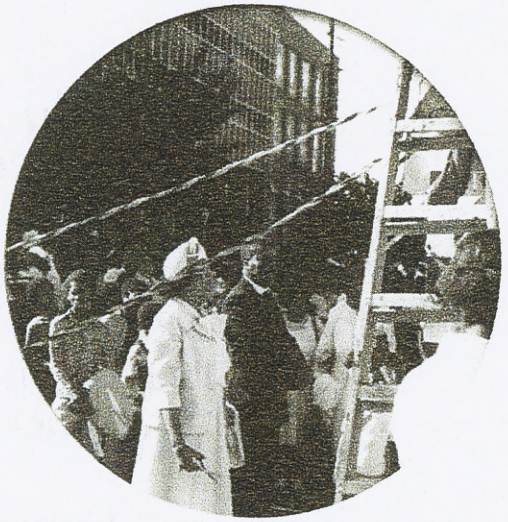
Papa & Nana
when they were first
married in 1934



Papa & Nana Altheimer
with their two children,
Clarice and Ernett



Papa & Nana - the early years
What a handsome couple



Nana about to cut the ribbon at the
ceremony to rename "G" Street -
"Altheimer Street"

Nana entering a Founders' Day Celebration

Nana is honored on Founders' Day

Nana enjoys the Convocation

Nana expresses appreciation to our musicians

We express our love, respect & appreciation to our Nana on Founders' Day

Nana praises God on a Sunday Morning

Bernice N. Altheimer

"Nana"

May 25, 1917 – December 26, 2001

Co-Founder of Altheimer Memorial Church - April, 1945

"Life is not measured by its length, but by its depth."

Missionary Bernice Altheimer "Nana" was one of 11 children born to the late Henry and Mattie Sims, on May 25, 1917 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She was saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost at a young age and that was when her journey of faith began.

Nana married the love of her life, the late Bishop R. E. Altheimer, on June 3, 1934. To this union was born two children, Clarice Altheimer Hammond and Ernett Altheimer. In 1943 her family moved to the Pacific Northwest and settled in the Seattle area. They worshiped at the Madison Street Church of God in Christ under the leadership of the late Bishop Van Goodlow. Two years later, Bishop Goodlow appointed Elder Altheimer to a new field of labor in Tacoma, Washington. By now, Nana had developed a meaningful prayer life and bible study habits that kept her growing spiritually; thus allowing her to be a tremendous asset to their ministry. God proved himself to be faithful over and over again.

Nana was an extraordinary lady. She was a minister's wife, an elder's wife, a pastor's wife and a bishop's wife. And with each one of these transitions, she never lost those qualities that endeared her to everyone she met.

She was employed by St. Joseph Hospital where she earned the respect and love of the nuns and her co-workers. Because God was blessing and adding to the church daily, she eventually was able to leave the work force and devote more of her time to the care of the church and serving humanity. Whether that service was in the form of community volunteer work (for which she has received both local and state awards) or helping the many military husbands and wives that came in and out of the city over the next 56 years, Nana could always be found doing good. She offered shelter and refuge for many individuals that relocated to the Tacoma area. She not only opened up her home, but she opened up her heart and exemplified the true meaning of love and caring. That love and caring was a quiet stream that continued to flow throughout her life.

Because of her commitment to God and her determination to enhance the spreading of the gospel, Nana was appointed State Chairlady of the Women's Department. She served in this position faithfully and because she demonstrated her willingness to be a good follower, she was elevated to the position of First Administrative Assistant. She also was a member of the State Advisory Board and the State Steering Committee. She served in these positions untiringly right up until God called her home.

Home Going of Mother Bernice Altheimer

"NANA"

ORDER OF SERVICE

MUSICAL PRELUDE . . . . . Elder Frank Mixon

PROCESSIONAL

MODERATOR . . . . . Supt. Leo Brown

INVOCATION . . . . . Pastor Robert Jones

SCRIPTURE
Old Testament . . . . . Evangelist Earl Harris, Jr.
New Testament . . . . . Missionary Valerie Campbell

SELECTION . . . . . Altheimer Memorial Mass Choir

EXPRESSIONS . . . . . Mother Gertrude Young
State Supervisor, Women's Department

EXPRESSIONS . . . . . Supt. Edgar Gray
Supt. James T. Watson

SOLO . . . . . Pastor Jean Melton

EXPRESSIONS . . . . . Elder Kelly Easter
Bishop & Mrs. C.D. Williams of Alaska

SOLO . . . . . Missionary Alma Meade

RESOLUTIONS . . . . . State Women's Department
Altheimer Memorial Church - Missionary Shirley Jackson

FAMILY TRIBUTE . . . . . Sister Margaret Lester

ACKNOWLEDGMENT of Cards, Resolutions
Telegrams and Condolences
OBITUARY . . . . . Missionary Marie Harris

SOLO . . . . . Sister Crystal Aikin

EXPRESSIONS & INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER . . . . . Supt. Sherman Davis
Pastor, Altheimer Memorial Church

SELECTION . . . . . Altheimer Memorial Mass Choir

EULOGY . . . . . Bishop T. L. Westbrook
Washington State Prelate

MUSICAL POSTLUDE . . . . Brother James Brown/Elder James Thomas, Jr.

MOUNTAIN VIEW STAFF

RECESSIONAL

Memorial Flowers

Special Thanks and Acknowledgments

Words can never express all that is in our hearts. Nor can they express what all of you mean to us. We have truly been comforted by your love, support, and many kind acts; your visits, your flowers, your cards, your love tokens, your smiles and your phone calls. But most of all you have held us up before the Lord in your prayers, without which we could not have made it this far. Whatever your part, please know that we thank you ever so much. What a blessing it is to have so many friends surround us and petition God on our behalf in a time like this. May God bless you for your kindness and may the peace of God be with you always. The Altheimer Family

Honorary Pallbearers (Brotherhood)

Deacon James Thomas, sr.
Deacon R. J. McHenry
Deacon James Boggan
Brother Travis Aikin
Deacon Maurice Wright
Deacon Sam Clark
Deacon Leon Parker
Brother William Dillard.

Honorary Pallbearers (Sisterhood)

Mother Katie Bell
Missionary Movita Stewart
Sister Dorothy McHenry
Mother Stella Riley
Sister Rose Thomas
Missionary Beverly Myers
Sister Dora Jackson
Mother Nettie Dillard
Mother Alma Dawkins
Mother Emma Johnson
Missionary Constance Harris
Sister Verda Washington
Sister Gloria Jennings
Missionary Dorothy Edwards

Active Pallbearers

Brother Russell McHenry
Elder Dexter Clark
Brother John Meade
Minister Charles Myers
Brother Arnie Myers
Minister Felton Jennings
Minister Donald Ray Clark
Brother Brandon Myers

Interment
Mountain View Memorial Park
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
While driving in the Processional, please turn lights on.

Dinner will be served at State Headquarters
for the family and their guests immediately after interment.

Nana was a woman with the responsibility of an Eve, the willingness of a Rebekah, and the beauty of a Rachel.

Her life style required the faith of Jochebed, the watchfulness of a Miriam and the endurance of a Zipporah

At times she had to exercise the boldness of a Rahab, the determination of a Ruth, and the courage of an Esther.

She was as practical as a Martha, as devoted as a Mary, and as unpretentious as a Priscilla.

Nana reserved her spiritual heritage like a Lois, imparted to her children the unfeigned faith of a Eunice and maintained the piety of an Elizabeth.

She was known in the community for having the mending skills of a Dorcus; and in the church for having the dedication of a Phoebe.

And even before she was gone, we paused and reflected upon the contributions this woman of God made.

The summation of Nana's life can be best described in Proverbs 31:10-31.

Selected excerpts from Proverbs 31

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need to spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Her children arise up and call her blessed: her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Nana lived a life of daily worship. She mixed worship, praise and prayer in high proportions each day. Her obedience to God's Word flavored every aspect of her life. She knew that a merry heart doeth good like a medicine. She measured out healthy doses of happiness to all who crossed her path. The joy of the Lord was her strength. She set her affections on things above, not things on this earth. Nana was never without hope and faith was a dominant spice in her life. She looked for and found God's unfolding grace each day. And if we close our eyes and focus, we can almost hear her quoting Hebrews 13:5 "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." And Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Nana was a bible scholar because she studied and searched the scriptures daily. She learned at a very early age that she really could stand on God's promises. Nana leaves with us a legacy of faithfulness to God, her family and her church. She spoke and showed love in every language. It was her hope that we, the people for whom she has touched our lives in such insurmountable ways, will carry on her great legacy of faithfulness and love.

Nana leaves to mourn her passing her daughter, Clarice Altheimer Hammond of Tacoma, WA, her son, Ernett Altheimer of Seattle, WA, her brother, Eugene Sims of Seattle, WA , her niece of the home, Ann Roaf, a host of grand, great-grand and great-great-grandchildren, and a multitude of family members and friends.

The Cross In My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket.
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic.
Nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key.
The Cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
Because I let Him be.

-Verna Thomas-

Goodbye My Dears!
I'll see you in Glory!

"PACKING"

I'm going home this morning;
I'm going home today.
But, just before I go
I'm going to pack
some things away.
I found a box just big enough
to hold these earthly weights.
I thank God that they will never be
allowed past Heaven's gates.
First I packed up pain.
I folded up misery,
and then I rolled up disappointment,
tears and fear, I threw them in there deep.
I packed up all the heartache
that used to make me weep.
And then I heard my Master's voice,
He said it's time to go
and He took away my box of burdens.
I'll have no more sorrows
and no more woes.
I then slipped away quietly,
all my packing done.
I'm finally with Jesus now
My journey is done!
The victory is won.

-By Patricia Maxwell-